

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.


The Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 10-11, 13-15, 17-21, 23-28, and 31-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al. U. S. Patent No. 6,266,576 in view of Perry's Chemical Engineer's Handbook (Perry's). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action takes the position that the Okada et al reference discloses each feature of Applicants' claimed invention except for the controller "receiving a controllable valve position signal". Applicants point out, however, that the claimed invention as amended also specifies that the control valve is disposed in the reformat, i.e., that it is downstream of the reformer. Okada et al's control valve 10 is located in the methanol supply line to the reformer, not in the reformat as required by Applicants' claims. Applicants also note that while Okada et al disclose a pressure regulator 11 disposed in the reformat, it appears to be a conventional regulator designed to maintain a constant pressure, and is not controlled off of the Okada et al's target pressure setting means 26 like their control valve 10 in the methanol supply line.

As neither the primary nor the secondary references disclose or suggest controlling a control valve disposed in the reformat based on the reformat pressure, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable, and respectfully request early action toward that end.

If there are additional charges with respect to this matter or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul L. Marshall
Registration Number 31,178

Date: September 15, 2005
Address: Delphi Technologies, Inc.
Legal Staff – Intellectual Property
MC: 480-410-420
5825 Delphi Drive
Troy, Michigan 48098
Telephone: (248) 813-1240